



KENNY C. GUINN
Governor

STATE OF NEVADA
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES

DIVISION OF WILDLIFE

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R. MICHAEL TURNIPSEED, P.E.
Director
Department of Conservation
and Natural Resources

TERRY R. CRAWFORTH
Administrator

February 21, 2003

Mr. Jeff Koenings, Director
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
600 Capitol Way North
Olympia, WA 98504-3135

Dear Director Koenings:

In my role as sage grouse conservation champion for the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA), I am writing to thank you for allowing Dr. Michael A. Schroeder to be one of two scientists who will serve as project leaders for completing Phase I of a Conservation Assessment for sage grouse. In this assignment, Dr. Schroeder will be teamed with Dr. John W. Connelly, of the Idaho Department of Fish and Game for the assembly, analysis and reporting of population data and population risk factors for Greater Sage Grouse throughout their range. They will also participate in assessing and incorporating data for Gunnison sage grouse into a final conservation assessment covering all sage grouse. It is anticipated that this assignment will represent a significant time commitment from Dr. Schroeder for approximately one year.

This is an extremely important and challenging assignment which very few individuals are qualified to complete. Drs. Schroeder and Connelly are two of the best qualified scientists working with sage grouse and they have worked together in the past with outstanding results. In this assignment they will have the full support of the WAFWA sage grouse states and provinces through the Sage and Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse Technical Committee. The National Sage Grouse Conservation Framework Team will coordinate the overall conservation assessment including federal agency participation and support in assembling habitat data for sagebrush and sage-steppe ranges.

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The conservation assessment represents a milestone in long-term cooperative conservation of sage grouse. The assessment is the first effort to gather and analyze information on sage grouse and their habitats from throughout their range and to assess the risks facing various populations. This analysis will provide the basis for a coordinated and cooperative action plan for sage grouse conservation.

The assignment of Dr. Schroeder to this important task demonstrates the very best in the cooperative spirit from your department and the state of Washington. It is an extremely generous and significant contribution to the long term conservation of sage grouse. I thank you on behalf of all the states, provinces, and agencies and pledge to Dr. Schroeder our full support in completing this important assignment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Terry R. Crawford", is written over a horizontal line.

Terry R. Crawford
Administrator

Cc: Dwight Bunnell
Larry Kruckenberg